

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 32**

**Introduced by Cardoza**  
(Coauthor: Senator Costa)

March 20, 1997

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 32—Relative to  
arthropods.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 32, as introduced, Cardoza. State Collection of  
Arthropods.

This measure would designate the Plant Pest Diagnostics  
Center of the Division of Plant Industry of the Department of  
Food and Agriculture as the official repository for the  
collection of arthropods in the State of California to be known  
as the State Collection of Arthropods. The measure would also  
request the Director of Food and Agriculture to determine  
the cost of appropriate plaques and markers showing the  
special designation and, upon receiving donations from  
nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those plaques and  
markers.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, An outstanding reference collection of  
2 arthropods is stored in a modern compact environment  
3 at the Plant Pest Diagnostics Center of the Division of  
4 Plant Industry of the Department of Food and  
5 Agriculture; and

1 WHEREAS, The collection includes about 1.5 million  
2 specimens representing insect families world-wide and  
3 representing the genera of North America and contains  
4 representative species of California. While not the largest  
5 arthropod collection, this collection is one of the highest  
6 in percentage of properly identified specimens in the  
7 United States; and

8 WHEREAS, This collection provides for accurate and  
9 timely identification of arthropods by a staff of world-class  
10 quality scientists capable of identifying all submitted  
11 insects, mites, and other arthropods that may be a threat  
12 to agriculture. The well-planned operation to rapidly  
13 identify submitted insects, mites, and other arthropods is  
14 necessary due to the rapidly increasing movement of  
15 people and produce into the state by many transportation  
16 modes that may introduce foreign arthropods that could  
17 cause the agriculture industry millions of dollars in crop  
18 loss, treatment costs, loss of some domestic and foreign  
19 markets through quarantines, and additional burdens on  
20 our environment from use of chemical insecticides in  
21 attempts to control or eradicate the pests; and

22 WHEREAS, Nearly one-third of all jobs in California  
23 are related to agriculture; and

24 WHEREAS, The scientists at the diagnostics center  
25 routinely use their professional background, available  
26 literature, consultations with professional peers, and, of  
27 utmost importance to the timely and accurate  
28 identification process, the utilization of the reference  
29 collection; and

30 WHEREAS, The use of this collection as a valuable tool  
31 for scientific use began in 1927 and includes a repository  
32 for all associated data on hosts, locations, dates of  
33 collection, collectors, and biological information,  
34 provides representative voucher specimens from control  
35 and eradication projects, as environmental indicators,  
36 from unique situations for historical evidence,  
37 distribution, and range information, and contains type  
38 specimens representing unique species; and

39 WHEREAS, The diagnostics center is charged with  
40 performing the multitude of services associated with



1 identification of arthropods for California's most  
2 important industry, agriculture. The diagnostics center  
3 identifications serve county agriculture commissioners,  
4 University of California Extension services and  
5 researchers, and the public at large; and

6 WHEREAS, In order to ensure that the collection in  
7 Sacramento will always be available to scientists, it is  
8 imperative that this collection is managed properly and  
9 secured financially for the future. It is an effective step in  
10 this preservation and management that the diagnostics  
11 center's collection be officially recognized as the official  
12 state collection; now, therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the*  
14 *Senate thereof concurring,* That the Plant Pest  
15 Diagnostics Center of the Division of Plant Industry of  
16 the Department of Food and Agriculture is hereby  
17 officially designated as the official repository for the  
18 collection of arthropods in the state and shall be known  
19 as the State Collection of Arthropods; and be it further

20 *Resolved,* That the Department of Food and  
21 Agriculture is requested to determine the cost of  
22 appropriate plaques and markers, consistent with the  
23 building standards for state building, showing the special  
24 designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate  
25 sources covering that cost, to erect those plaques and  
26 markers; and be it further

27 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
28 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Director of Food  
29 and Agriculture.

